

Leading by Convening

means engaging stakeholders in meaningful ways

February 2018

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Meet people *where they are* on the issue.

Do you know the level of prior knowledge that family and other stakeholder groups have on state issues? Stakeholders tell us that much of the information and training they receive is complex or filled with specialized vocabulary, content, or jargon.

2

Bring people together.

Find the ways that families, family organizations, and other people and groups can connect to your work on state issues. Use the value that others see in the issue to build shared understanding and support for addressing the work together.

3

Learn together.

Convene the family leaders, family organizations, and other stakeholders who are needed to implement the change. Discover why the issue is important to them and how changes will improve practice. Learn about their perspectives and experiences in doing similar work.

4

Let others help.

Create active engagement on the issue. It's important to reach out to others who can help you translate complex challenges into ways that many individuals can contribute. Ask people to do things. Create ways for people to lead on some aspect of the issue, or lead an activity related to the issue.

5

Help others lead.

Support diverse family leaders and others so they can *lead in place* regardless of title, role, or position. State teams have to believe that many people can be leaders. Broad outreach and large-scale practice change is needed to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families.

6

Create knowledge.

Building engagement across issues, roles, and levels of the system becomes a catalyst for finding unique ways of viewing a problem and finding solutions. It creates new knowledge. Help build two-way learning by working with family organizations and other stakeholder groups.

7

Build commitment.

Build a personal commitment to work in more inclusive ways. Others will help scale up improved practice and sustain the work across roles, agencies, and levels of the system.

8

Work together.

Doing work together changes us, and it changes the people with whom we work. Real change is personal change. Work with us to *be the change* you seek.

9

Cultivate habits.

Create routines that support collaboration. Help people see themselves as partners. Choose strategies that help the group build engagement into their identity. Cultivate the habit of interaction. Contact us for support.

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Ask the NCFPP.

Contact the National Center for Family Professional Partnerships for more information on *Leading by Convening* activities and tools. For more information, go to www.fv-ncfpp.org/activities/building-partnership-skills/.

